The Chicago Tribune.

VOL. XXI. CHICAGO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1868. NUMBER 184.

WASHINGTON.

Emancipation Celebration in Washington To-Day.

Changes in the Bergman Laws Recommended by Commissioner Wells.

Englishmen Released from the Virginia Statehouse Prison.

Amounts Refunded to States for Expenditures During the Rebellion.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER WELLS.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Wells writes to this city that he will lay his report before Congress some time about the middle of January. It is understood that, with respect to the tariff, he favors the abolition of nearly the entire list of imposts, except those on liquors and tobacco, which he thinks should be increased. He also recommends the abolition of the present system of taxing manufactures, and the substitution of a tax on sales. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing banks, and the substitution of a tax on their capital. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing incomes, and the substitution of a tax on the gross receipts of all persons engaged in business. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing legacies, and the substitution of a tax on the amount received by each individual. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing stamps, and the substitution of a tax on the amount of business done by each individual. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing licenses, and the substitution of a tax on the amount of business done by each individual. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing patents, and the substitution of a tax on the amount of business done by each individual. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing copyrights, and the substitution of a tax on the amount of business done by each individual. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing trademarks, and the substitution of a tax on the amount of business done by each individual. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing designs, and the substitution of a tax on the amount of business done by each individual. 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He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing additions, and the substitution of a tax on the amount of business done by each individual. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing subtractions, and the substitution of a tax on the amount of business done by each individual. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing multiplications, and the substitution of a tax on the amount of business done by each individual. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing divisions, and the substitution of a tax on the amount of business done by each individual. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing fractions, and the substitution of a tax on the amount of business done by each individual. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing decimals, and the substitution of a tax on the amount of business done by each individual. 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He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing silver brokers, and the substitution of a tax on the amount of business done by each individual. He is also in favor of the abolition of the present system of taxing bond brokers

1887 and 1888.

The year which closed last night, 31 days remarked by any of the more far-reaching events of War and Peace, has been one of vast importance in the commercial and political affairs of the world. Our own country has been blessed with a bountiful harvest and a season of general exemption from pestilence. A portion of the people, as a result of their own improvidence, and not because of any fault of the soil, were for a time subjected to great suffering for the want of food, but that temporary destitution was relieved, and the harvest of 1887 proved that the land had not lost its fertility, and that there need be no famine while there are hands to plant the seed and cultivate the soil. In the adjoining Republic of Mexico the Aztec dynasty was extinguished by the tragic death of Maximilian, and Mexico was once more restored to her stormy, turmoil life of domestic broil and constant dissension, ignorance and anarchy. North of us the Dominion of Canada has been put in operation, and is undergoing the trials and perils and internal distresses peculiar to infancy. With good sense, and a gradual adaptation of the policy to that of the American States, the dominion will in time lift itself from the stagnant condition in which the Provinces have remained so long.

Our South American neighbors have had their usual amount of strife, and little Paraguay has held her own against the combined land and naval forces of the allied States. Garibaldi has tried twice to capture the Papal States; but, owing to the protection of France, the Pope exists upon another year as Prince of Rome. The Fenians have failed to dislodge British rule from Ireland, and British cruelty has added new names to the terribly long list of Irish martyrs, whose blood is yet to be atoned for.

Japan and China have been brought into close and regular steam communication with the United States. Steamers now leave the United States for Japan with the same regularity that they leave the Atlantic seaboard ports of our country. In England the cause of popular liberty has gained a great victory. Over two miles of tenements have been added to the electors of Parliament, and if these is true to their principles, they may manipulate those of their fellows not yet made free.

In our own country we have had a most memorable struggle between an enraged executive and the representatives of the people. Congress proposed to give the people of the rebel States the opportunity of re-establishing civil governments in a loyal spirit, and thereby regaining representation in the Houses of Congress. The Executive determined that there should be no governments established in those States, save those owing a personal allegiance to him. In order to defeat the will of the people, and to gain his own ambitious end, Andrew Johnson has obstinately, maliciously, and cruelly endeavored to defeat the will of Congress and of the people, thereby prolonging the misery and woe over the people of those States. Despite this fact, however, and despite the interference of the removal of 5,000 military officers favorable to the views of the law, the country has had the satisfaction of seeing the work of reconstruction progressing favorably in all the States; and if executive interposition be no more successful hereafter than it has been in the past, the year 1888 will witness to-day with which to the final close of the rebellion in the restoration of all the Southern States with governments founded upon the consent of the governed.

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Much has been done in 1887 to advance the material prosperity of mankind, and more has extended its limits; wealth and capital and population have rolled in upon us from foreign lands. Though we are oppressed by the burden of taxation, the productive labor of the world is not deterred from coming to America, where, though it be taxed, it has Free dom.

During 1887 there were in a number of the States elections for State officers and officers. For the first time in many years, these elections were held free from any national issue, and merely upon local interests. The people of both parties took the occasion to express their local views, oppressions and outrages that had been grown up in these State governments, and for this purpose they changed a Governor, as in Connecticut, the Legislature as in Ohio, New York and New Jersey, and in all the States properly rebuked by defeat a number of unworthy men who sought to use the Republican party for their private ends. Whenever and wherever there was any national question involved the people were as unyielding as ever.

The year whose commencement is welcomed to-day will witness the election of a President of the United States, to succeed the miserable ingrate who now fills the chair. In the perils that environ the nation, the throes of reconstruction, restoration of rebel rule to the rebel States, and consequent anarchy, disunion, and ruin there never was an occasion when we so much needed a President fitting it his own person to bring in integrity and a personal courage that will not be deterred from duty by any contingency. The nation possesses but one man who possesses all the requisites of a President fit for the present great emergency. The American people in all sections of the country have but one choice for that office, and all look in the great hero of the war to lead the country as successfully through the civil strife in which it is involved.

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For the sake of the credit of the road, is to be hoped that the rumors set afloat by Mr. Hall, the financial superintendent of the road, are but groundless fears, and that there is no foundation for the report that there has been an over-issue of stock. In the consolidation of the Rock Island and the Missouri & Missouri Railroads, it was provided that no new bonds should be issued for the purpose of completing the Missouri and Missouri Road to Council Bluffs, and it is probable, Mr. Hall thinks, that in this arrangement provision was made for the issue of new bonds, and a new issue of stock. If so, there is no need apprehension of bonds. If there has been issued it is under the authority of the road, and the bonds constitute no new charge, and therefore contribute to new liability. The credit of the road is, in itself, unimpeachable, and whatever may be the result of the present rumors, the bonds and stock will be found safe investments.

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It is the duty of the city to take immediate steps looking not only to the protection of its present rights, but to the prevention of any robbery or legislative spoliation hereafter. That land is too valuable to be permitted to lie idle, and to cloud title. If the city of Chicago will not ask for the title and secure it, the public, speculative individuals will take care to benefit by its neglect at the first opportunity. An application to Congress for a grant of the title to all land lying east of the present frontage of the city, and extending upon the bottom of Lake Michigan three miles into the lake, subject to all the conditions of the unobstructed navigation of the Chicago harbor and Lake Michigan, would hardly fail to be granted, and secured forever put an end to the schemes of robbery and plunder which corrupt and dishonest Legislatures may enact.

There should be no delay in this matter. A company to take possession of all the land for one mile east of Michigan avenue is already formed. The grant will be worth many millions. It will destroy the value of much of the present South Side real estate, and a few cents subscription on the stock will constitute a liberal fund to purchase the next Legislature. We suggest to Mayor Rice that the Common Council that they take this by the horlock, and that they call on Congress for that grant for the city, during the present session.

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Washington Clerk Hire.

A Washington dispatch says:

"According to assertions made, the 47 men of Representatives called upon the heads of departments to make statements of the amounts of money to be drawn under the act of Congress giving employes of the departments a Washington tenure per cent and additional compensation. The following are the amounts thus received: From the Treasury, $667,656; War Department, $46,895; Interior Department, $47,815; from the Post Office Department, $41,615; from the Department of Agriculture, $20,000. Total, thus far, $1,113,586. The Secretaries of the Navy and Attorney-General and Comptroller of the Currency have not yet reported."

Should all the executive departments at three to four hundred thousand dollars, the aggregate amounts to a million and a half. The clerks looked upon having this bonus continued next year. Then the Presidential year, when they will voluntarily relinquish the extra salary for cent. It matters little whether this extra taxation may be upon the people. They become is to eat taxed not to earn them. If these young men, who have been appointed to office, are not satisfied with their compensation, it is the easiest thing in the world to resign and go at something else, which will pay better. The fact that they refuse to resign proves that they cannot do as well at anything else. The order of the day is retrenchment, and members of Congress may depend upon it that their votes on all appropriations will be closely scanned by their constituents. A million and a half of extra taxes to be divided among a lot of clerks who work but half-time, will not be the most popular assessment upon the pockets of their constituents they might make. People like to have some *quid pro quo* for their money; but in the case clerk pay there would be none.

General Sherman's Administration in Kansas—Letter from General Sherman.

General James B. Belcher writes to the Cincinnati *Commercial* a letter defending General Barbridge's administration of affairs in Kansas, during the war, and quotes the following letter from General Sherman:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19, 1887.

General S. G. Belcher, Lexington, Ky.:

DEAR GENERAL—I have your letter, and promise to review you always of the letter I addressed you from Atlanta, in which I said I was opposed to meddling in Kentucky, subject to my orders. The same letter, I think, will show that I have always made to you, timeliness on your entire action, and I now repeat that I am glad you were in command of Kansas, and not any other officer, because I knew that you would not attempt to make any more arrests than were absolutely necessary, and would not attempt to punish any man except by military commission, and then only for the gravest offenses. I believe you were right in the matter of the Quantrell raid, and I am glad you had the courage to act promptly. If the British Government is told that it is to the "Conservative party" that it owes the peace it is, I will say, "Well done." There must be an end to lawlessness, and the sooner it is done the better. Ireland will be governed by the sword, and the whole world will be benefited and blessed by the establishment of peace and order. Ireland is now in a condition of anarchy, and no one of common sense can look upon it without feelings. "If confined to Ireland" it would be bad enough, but the spirit which will not be satisfied, and that is the spirit that governs the Irish race and has governed it for centuries, is the spirit of human anarchy. My own predecessor was tied in effigy to the limb of a tree, and I was told to take in the State, but if they will not do that, they will do worse. There must be an end to lawlessness, and the sooner it is done the better. Ireland will be governed by the sword, and the whole world will be benefited and blessed by the establishment of peace and order. Ireland is now in a condition of anarchy, and no one of common sense can look upon it without feelings. "If confined to Ireland" it would be bad enough, but the spirit which will not be satisfied, and that is the spirit that governs the Irish race and has governed it for centuries, is the spirit of human anarchy. My own predecessor was tied in effigy to the limb of a tree, and I was told to take in the State, but if they will not do that, they will do worse. There must be an end to lawlessness, and the sooner it is done the better. Ireland will be governed by the sword, and the whole world will be benefited and blessed by the establishment of peace and order. Ireland is now in a condition of anarchy, and no one of common sense can look upon it without feelings. "If confined to Ireland" it would be bad enough, but the spirit which will not be satisfied, and that is the spirit that governs the Irish race and has governed it for centuries, is the spirit of human anarchy.

I am, with regard, W. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

THE FASHIONS.

New York and Paris Styles for Midwinter.

Special Fashions Correspondence of The Chicago Tribune.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.

HARD TIMES AND LOW PRICES.

Business people are everywhere complaining that the holiday times are hard times. Few purchases are made, and those only of the cheaper and less expensive class of goods. The very articles, which are so costly and which generally bring any price the dealer chooses to ask at this season, go begging, and lie shewy, but neglected, upon the counters and in the shop windows, while the prices to which many of them have been reduced.

For example, the ornamental boxes for gloves, handkerchiefs, stationery, and the like, which, filled with French bon-bons, are bought in such quantities for Christmas gifts, are usually sold at prices varying from one and two dollars up to fifty—the confectioners at a dollar and a dollar and a half per pound, to be added afterwards. This year, the fifty dollar boxes have been reduced to those at twenty-five to fifteen; and the ten and fifteen to six, eight and ten. Even at these reductions, however, the gifts are of somewhat expensive presents, and the prevalence of dullness in every department of commerce is the reason assigned for the more economical.

A curious freak of fancy has inspired the proprietor of the largest dry goods house to open a department for the sale of such cheap articles of use usually to be had only during the holidays—boxes of perfumery, "a la" confectionery, retinued, and other cases, pocket books, toilets, ornaments, &c. A counter has been devoted to this purpose, and is surrounded with people all day long, still night that it is almost impossible to get near enough to see the prices shown upon the enormous profit made on this class of goods, they being, in many instances, less than half that, or even one-third, represented by the bill. The remarkable evidence of a want of confidence in the Tory party which is indicated in this fact, and the lesson to be learned by the Liberal party, is that they must observe the traditions to maintain a temporary ascendancy and uncertain honor does not afford the general results of reform, but can only be to injurious to the best interests of the country. If the British Government is told that it is to the "Conservative party" that it owes the peace it is, I will say, "Well done."

...TRADE.

...ds of Cattle, ...Horses and ...for 1867.

...es in the Receipts of ...Falling off in Cattle.

...arative Statistics—...Prices—A Gen... Review of the Trade.

...ARDS OF...the late Stock trade ...and Settles Daily ...ers convince the ...ers convince the ...ers convince the

The Tribune.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1868.

THE CITY.

THE NEW YEAR.—In accordance with our usual custom, no paper will be issued from this office to-morrow.

The office of the Western Union Telegraph Company will close to-day at 12 m., and will be open from 4 to 8 p. m. The operating room will be open the entire day.

The express boys who have been during the last year, through rain and snow, and cold, carried THE DAILY TRIBUNE to its subscribers, will, as usual, not rendered on this New Year's Day with the customary present tendered to their patrons, have prepared a "Happy New Year's Carol, which the reader can find on the first column of the inside page. In its words, its music, and its title page outfits, it is a gem of the typographical art, well worth a perusal. Those who have not already received a copy of the song, can obtain one at the counting house, via the local news carriers, who will call upon them.

THE KANSAS DELEGATES.—The monthly meeting will be held at the House, on Thursday afternoon.

REV. HENRY LANSE-CHAPPEL and family will be glad to see their friends on New Year's, from 10 a. m. to 9 p. m. Residence, No. 1103 Indiana avenue.

THE NEW YEAR.—THE TRIBUNE morning, as heretofore, by the early morning of the coming New Year's Day, of Millard celebrity, in food dough, and cream.

THE PEACE INVESTIGATION.—The following Aldermen have been appointed as the committee to investigate the charges against the police:

South Division—Powell, Beidler.
North Division—Hamilton, Walsh, Carpenter.
West Division—Moulton, Cook.

RAILROAD CONNECTIONS AT WISCONSIN PASS.—E. M. Hyll, east end of Randolph street bridge, solicits patronage of the west quality at wholesale prices. His stock is large and well selected. Fine Imported Wines, Old Cognac and Pure Rye Whiskies. For large orders, coffins, tans, &c., from the trade, the lowest rates are requested to take notice.

A MEAN PUNISHMENT.—Miss Becker, an account of whose bible instruction was published a few days since in the TRIBUNE, was punished in the Police Court. The charge against her, of infidelity, was changed to fraudulently contract, and she was fined $100.

PICKED UP YESTERDAY.—Johnll. Boston, a recent arrival from Columbus, Ohio, was arrested a few days since on complaint of having stolen a valued gun, an account which he had in his possession. He was appearing in prosecution him, he was yesterday discharged from custody, and the gun was restored to him. He was also given an opportunity to leave the city hastily, which he improved.

A POLITICAL IMPROVISATOR.—John Schneider was a candidate during the last election for Collector of Sands, Chicago. He was not supported by his friend Peter Wolf, and was greatly surprised thereat. A day or two since he met Wolf, and asked him why he had not voted for him. "Why," said Wolf, "I gambled a month at Mr. Tickner's office to my place; I can't afford to vote for you." "Is that so?" said Schneider; "let me see, was the last A. B. Sands or Mr. Evans; for some was the last A. B. Sands or Mr. Evans; for some was the last A. B. Sands or Mr. Evans; for some